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## CALIFORNIA MIDWINTER FAIR.

An International Fair is to be held in San Francisco, in the Golden Gate Park, beginning January 1, 1894. The LICK Observatory will make a full exhibit of astronomical pictures and transparencies. It is expected that Harvard College Observatory, the Physical Laboratory of Johns-Hopkins University, etc., will send representative photographs, etc., for exhibition.

We shall be very glad to take charge of the exhibits of Eastern or European observatories which may be consigned to us, and to see that they are suitably displayed. They should be sent to San José, in the care of the LICK Observatory, and they will be forwarded from here along with our own boxes.

EDWARD S. HOLDEN.

## COMPLETION OF THE NEW DUDLEY OBSERVATORY.

On the 7th of this month invitations were issued for the inspection of the new building and equipment of the DUDLEY Observatory at Albany.

The old location of the institution was unfavorable for astronomical work in several particulars, made so in part by the growth and extension of the city. Situated on the northern boundary, all observations in the south, where the greater part of the work is carried on, were made directly across the longest extent of the city. The myriads of chimneys, both factory and dwelling, not only obscured the air with smoke, but produced great waves of warm air, rising during the early night between the telescope and the sky.

The tracks of the New York Central pass the hill on two sides, having four sets of rails, on which there is the heaviest character of traffic. There seems to be a layer of rock, extending from beneath the old observatory to a point of the railroad, not perhaps the nearest to the building, and which communicated the vibrations produced by trains, with great force.

These were especially noticeable when heavy freight trains were coming down the grade, with brakes locked, a sliding rather than rolling motion. A nadir observation was usually impossible at these times. When the same trains were ascending on the way west, besides the pounding of the wheels of three or